

treated in each of them. Every region of every workpiece passes through every one of the longitudinally succeeding compartments.

There is, admittedly, something that could be interpreted as a pair of longitudinally extending partitions shown in FIG. 2 that arguably longitudinally subdivide the furnace into a longitudinal extending central zone flanked by a pair of longitudinally extending side zones. Here, however, the workpieces are wholly confined to the central zone. There is nothing whatsoever resembling "transport means for conveying the workpieces...with a region of the workpiece moving exclusively through the one zone and another region of the workpiece moving exclusively through the other zone." The workpieces never enter the side zones so these zones are irrelevant to the instant invention.

The instant invention is a heat-treatment furnace through which workpieces can be passed so that, without stopping movement of the workpieces, they can be heated differently in adjacent regions. This is accomplished by subdividing the interior of the furnace transversely into at least two longitudinally extending zones and the workpieces are transported longitudinally with one region always in the one zone and another region always in the other.

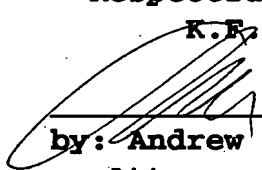
Exactly as in the above-mentioned Anderson device, in Harsch the workpiece-treating part of the furnace is subdivided

longitudinally into a succession of transversely extending and longitudinally succeeding regions, and every region of every workpiece passes through every zone. There are no longitudinally extending zones through which respective regions of the workpieces move, neither is there any way to say one region of the workpiece moves "exclusively" through one zone while another region moves "exclusively" through the other zone.

The §103 rejection on Harsch is completely wrong and must be withdrawn. The case is clearly in condition for allowance and passage to issue.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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